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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. 88

FEB  
425**INFORMATION REPORT**

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 30 JUN 50

SUBJECT Production of Ball Bearings at Kysucke Nove Meste  
and at Lisen Plant of Zbrojovka Brno

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PLACE  
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(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF  
INFO. [REDACTED]SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. The ball bearing plant which was reported to be in initial stages of construction at Kysucke Nove Meste is to be known as Valo (Valiva loziska), National Corporation, and is to produce all types of anti-friction bearings.
2. The management of Valo had been established in Prague during 1947, under the direction of Ing. Ajmata. Originally, this management was to handle only the distribution of supplies on hand and the importation of ball bearings. Production of ball bearings had been assigned to the Czechoslovakian Metallurgical Industry according to the Two-Year Plan introduced in January 1947. Therefore, Valo entered into negotiations with SKF in Sweden, with Hoffmann in England, and with the U.S. for surplus war stocks of bearings, but these negotiations were not successful and Ing. Ajmata was discharged.
3. With the Kugel-Fischer reparations machines set up in Lisen, Zbrojovka Brno agreed to produce 2,500,000 ball bearings by the end of 1948. Although it did not meet this target, Zbrojovka was placed in charge of the entire bearing program.
4. The lack of ball bearings continues. The Lisen plant produces only certain types and sizes of ball bearings, so that purchases must be made abroad, through intermediaries in Switzerland, Holland, and Italy, of American and British ball bearings. Instructions have been issued that, wherever possible, ball bearings be replaced by roller bearings. Since foreign machinery has not been procurable, Zbrojovka is attempting to copy and reconstruct machinery already in Czechoslovakia and to develop new machines.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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